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No. II.

PREVENTING LEAKAGE IN CASKS OF COCOA-NUT OIL.

The THANKS *of the Society were voted this session to Mr.* HUXHAM, *of Travancore, for the following communication respecting his method of preventing Leakage in Casks of Cocoa-nut Oil.*

SIR, Quilon, Travancore, March 21, 1826.

VERY considerable losses having been experienced for a series of years by the shippers of cocoa-nut oil from warm climates to England, in consequence of leakage from the casks in which it was sent, equal at times to forty or fifty per cent., and being engaged in this branch of commerce to a considerable extent, I was induced, some time since, to direct my attention to discover the means by which casks might be rendered sufficiently proof against leakage. After a variety of experiments and trials, I found the following plan to answer my most sanguine expectations.

The hoops of the cask are to be driven on very tight; it is then to be filled (within eight inches of the bung) with oil, and exposed to the action of the sun's rays (in a tropical climate sometimes 160° Fahrenheit) for twenty days or more, as may be necessary, taking care that on the first appearance of leakage the cask be placed on its head, and the hoops again drove; this may be repeated until

the cask is made perfectly tight, when it is to be filled up for shipment. The nature of the oil and the heat will cause the staves to shrink very much during the first ten days.

By adopting this method of proving the casks, vegetable or animal oils may be sent to any part of the world secure from leakage. I have made many shipments to London from this country, and adopted the above method, without experiencing any loss, the casks having arrived quite as full as when they were first shipped.

In corroboration of this statement, I beg to refer you to Messrs. Cockerell, Trail, and Co., 8, Austin-friars, to whom all the cargoes have been consigned.

Should the Society deem this statement worthy of their notice and approbation, I shall experience much satisfaction in having given it.

I am, Sir,

&c. &c. &c.

WILLIAM HUXHAM.

A. Aikin, Esq.
Secretary, &c. &c.

SIR, Austin-friars, March 27, 1826.

We have the pleasure to acknowledge your letter of the 14th instant, requesting to know whether any leakage had occurred on the shipments of cocoa-nut oil sent to us by Mr. Huxham, of the firm of Beaufort and Huxham, Ceylon; and in reply thereto we beg to inform you, for the information of the Society, that, so far as we can judge from the invoices, very little leakage has arisen on this gentleman's shipments.

We may also mention, that previously to Mr. Hux-

ham's joining his present partner, Mr. Beaufort, the deficiency on the latter gentleman's consignments was very considerable, extending sometimes to twenty or thirty per cent.; but that since Mr. Huxham's partnership such deficiency would appear to have nearly ceased.

We are, Sir,

&c. &c. &c.

COCKERELL, TRAIL, & Co.

A. Aikin, Esq.
Secretary, &c. &c.

Sir, Austin-friars, May 9, 1826.

We are in possession of your favour of the 6th instant, addressed to our Mr. Larpent, and in reply we beg to acquaint you, that we have communicated with our brokers on the subject, who inform us that the consignments of cocoa-nut oil from Mr. Huxham had not imbibed rancidity from any process it might have undergone; nor did it differ in any way from cocoa-nut oil usually sent from Ceylon.

We are, Sir,

&c. &c. &c.

COCKERELL, TRAIL, & Co.

A. Aikin, Esq.
Secretary, &c. &c.